



ግርማዊ ቀዳማዊ ለጥሃ ሥላሴ

ንጉሠ ነገሥት ዘኢትዮጵያ ሕ

H.I.M. Amha Selassie I

Emperor of Ethiopia

October 22, 1992

His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary General
United Nations
United National Plaza, N.Y., NY

Your Excellency:

It has come to our attention that the present Transitional Government of Ethiopia has in a written Communication to Your Excellency stated its official position with regard to the forthcoming referendum in the Eritrean region of Ethiopia. According to reports reaching us, the content of the message sent to Your Excellency solicits U.N. Support in the region's drive for independence.

If true, we would like to express to Your Excellency that this attitude of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia runs contrary to the wishes and sentiments of the entire Ethiopian people. The Eritrean region of Ethiopia constitutes the very heart and soul of historic Ethiopia, and nothing could be more offensive and unjust to all Ethiopians than to entertain the thought of the regions's separation from the rest of Ethiopia once again.

The northern region which includes "Eritrea," formerly known as Bahre Meder, is the very birth place of historic Ethiopia. All three great religions of the world, Judaism, Christianity and Islam first took root in Ethiopia in that region. Ancient churches, monasteries and historic temples, monuments and obelisks that identify Ethiopian civilization and culture as unique in the world are mostly located in that region. This is Ethiopian land deeply stained in Ethiopian blood, sweat and tears.

The epic struggle waged by our people in the years following World War II, under the inspired leadership of our illustrious father, Emperor Haile Selassie I, culminated in the reunification of that part of our region with the rest of the motherland. The U.N. played a historic crucial and positive role in bringing about that reunification.

As the records amply demonstrate that historic decision for reunification was reached after a long and arduous process of democratically ascertaining the wishes and desires of the entire population of the region. It is our understanding that that decision was and still is irrevocable.

In view of this, the forthcoming "referendum" which is designed to reverse that historic U.N. decision is clearly illegal, and the U.N. should not be a party to such illegality by being in any way involved. Apart from sowing the seeds of future conflict in the region, such a move will only make an already complicated situation even worse.

The present situation in Ethiopia is anomalous. The very fact of a Transitional Government of Ethiopia, which is supposed to be the central government safeguarding the interest of the country, calling for the separation of a vital part of its territory is proof of that anomaly. Besides, in taking steps that would lead to the fragmentation and disintegration of Ethiopia they seem to be oblivious of the fact that they are setting a precedent fraught with-grave danger for the entire African continent and the world.

We, therefore, request Your Excellency to take under proper advisement the Transitional Government's solicitation, which does not have the support of the people, and instead continue to work for the ageless principles for which the U.N. has been established in the first place namely, respect for the national sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nations that constitute its general membership.

As a founding member of the U.N., Ethiopia strongly believes in its underlying precepts and principles. It will be ironic indeed if the U.N. fails in its duty to Ethiopia at a time of its greatest need. If this happens, it will be a case of history repeating itself. For, it will be repeating the fatal mistakes of its predecessor, the defunct League of Nations.

Therefore, wisdom and prudence dictate that the world body approach this problem with utmost caution. What afflicts Ethiopia today could well be any other member country's problem tomorrow.

It is our earnest hope that Your Excellency and all the high functionaries of the U.N. as well as the general membership will give this matter the most serious consideration it deserves.

"Ethiopia stretches her hands to God"



Amha Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia